

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1 – 12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) [An installation] Apparatus for desalinating or purifying saline or otherwise polluted input water, said [installation] apparatus comprising:

a desalination fractionation installation having a hydrate formation region disposed at a lower portion [of said installation] thereof and a hydrate dissociation region disposed at an upper portion [of said installation] thereof;

a mixing chamber;

an input water conduit which is arranged to provide input water to said mixing chamber and to said hydrate formation region; and

a gas supply conduit which is arranged to provide [hydrate forming] hydrate-forming gas to said mixing chamber and to said hydrate formation region; [and]

wherein [hydrate forming] hydrate-forming gas is dissolved into at least a portion of the input water in said mixing chamber prior to being input into said hydrate formation region.

14. (Currently amended) The [installation] apparatus as set forth in claim 13, wherein said input water conduit which is arranged to provide input water to said mixing chamber and to said hydrate formation region constitutes a first input water conduit arranged to provide input water to said mixing chamber and a second input water conduit arranged to provide input water to said hydrate formation region.

15. (Currently amended) The [installation] apparatus as set forth in claim 13, wherein said gas supply conduit which is arranged to provide [hydrate forming] hydrate-forming gas to said mixing chamber and to said hydrate formation region constitutes a first gas supply conduit arranged to provide [hydrate forming] hydrate-forming gas to said mixing chamber and a second

gas supply conduit arranged to provide [hydrate forming] hydrate-forming gas to said hydrate formation region.